UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22482
11 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter of 4 April 1991 (S/22447), I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter by His Excellency Dr. Ali-Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to Your Excellency.

It would be highly appreciated, if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 April 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The influx of Iraqi refugees into the Islamic Republic of Iran and other neighbouring countries has surpassed all estimates and preparations, and has reached and indeed passed dangerous levels, jeopardizing the lives of tens of thousands of innocent human beings. In addition to the unprecedented human suffering, this massive influx directly or by consequence is threatening peace and security of the recipient countries and indeed of the whole region.

Even our own estimates transmitted to Your Excellency on 4 April have now been proven by far lower than the actual number of civilians who have up to now sought refuge in Iran. According to the latest information, about 900,000 Iraqis have crossed our borders in the south, centre and the north. Such massive flow of refugees - whose most common characteristic is not ethnicity but fear of repression, hunger, dehydration, and exhaustion of a tedious journey of several days of escaping bullets and freezing cold is bound to lead to nothing but disaster and human tragedy of unprecedented dimensions.

Even if the up-to-now negligible international assistance were to gain some badly needed momentum and substance, it is highly unlikely that any degree of local effort and international relief aid could meet the most primary requirements of the mass of wounded, sick, hungry and cold-stricken refugees and prevent the unfolding tragedy.

It is, therefore, the strong conviction of my Government, that, without prejudice to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, the necessary arrangements should be made for the safe and dignified repatriation of these refugees to their homeland. In order to provide a credible alternative to exodus and create the necessary atmosphere of confidence for voluntary return of the refugees, the process should be carried out under active and effective United Nations supervision and with United Nations guarantees for the safety and honour of the affected population, with the necessary safeguards to preclude any hampering - however temporary - of Iraq's territorial integrity.

The magnitude of the disaster requires immediate action by the United Nations without further delay both in order to address the basic needs of the refugees and also to arrange for their repatriation. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to extend its full cooperation to the United Nations and Your Excellency in these efforts.

(Signed) Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

---